

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 20278 01 OF 02 011635Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-07 FEAE-00

FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-06 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-10 EURE-00 /132 W

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P R 011624Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3751

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20278

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, ENRG, CIEC, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 29-30 EUROPEAN SUMMIT: FRG PRESS

COMMENTARY

1. SUMMARY: FRG PRESS REACTION TO OUTCOME OF EUROPEAN SUMMIT HAS GENERALLY BEEN FAVORABLE. THE PRESS IN PARTICULAR APPLAUDED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO POSTPONE EC DECISIONS ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. EDITORIAL COMMENT FOCUSED ON NORTH/SOUTH

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BONN 20278 01 OF 02 011635Z

ISSUES, THE THREAT OF HIGHER OIL PRICES, AND THE

WEAKENING ECONOMIC OUTLOOK. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTING THAT SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES STILL EXIST AFTER THE SUMMIT, THE "WELT" (RIGHT-CENTER) COMMENTED THAT ONLY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS SATISFIED. SCHMIDT REPORTEDLY BELIEVED THAT THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WAS FRUITFUL PRECISELY BECAUSE IT WAS NOT ENCUMBERED BY WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS AND BY DRAFT DECISIONS TO CONSIDER. THE DISCUSSION OF EC POSITIONS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, WHICH THE "WELT" CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC ON THE AGENDA, WERE HELD IN THE LIGHT OF SKEPTICAL EVALUATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN THE EC AS WELL AS THE EXPECTATION THAT THE CIEC MINISTERIAL WOULD BE POSTPONED. ACCORDING TO THE "WELT", THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEREFORE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS NECESSARY TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR DEBT RELIEF, PROTECTION OF RAW MATERIAL PRICES, OR THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL HELP TO THE THIRD WORLD. HOWEVER, THE DISCUSSION OF THE COMMODITIES QUESTION LED TO GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE NEED FOR THE EC TO AVOID REPEATING ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE WHAT IT HAS DONE WRONG IN THE PAST WITH REGARD TO THE CAP. THE "WELT"'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE FRG EMERGED FROM THE SUMMIT LESS ISOLATED ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES WAS GENERALLY SHARED BY OTHER GERMAN NEWSPAPERS.

3. IN COMMENTING ON SUMMIT HANDLING OF NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, THE "SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" (LEFT OF CENTER) APPLAUDED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S EFFORTS TO AVOID HASTY DECISIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MAIN TASK NOW IS TO WIN TIME UNTIL THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS IN OFFICE AND THE WESTERN INDUSTRIAL STATES CAN AGREE ON A COMMON POLICY. THE EFFORTS BY THE DUTCH TO OBTAIN QUICK EC DECISIONS ON THE COMMON FUND AND ON CONSOLIDATION OF THIRD WORLD DEBTS WERE NOT THEREFORE FULLY UNDERSTANDABLE. "SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" ALSO APPLAUDED THE CHANCELLOR'S DESIRE TO LINK THE NORTH/SOUTH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BONN 20278 01 OF 02 011635Z

DIALOGUE WITH THE DEBATE OVER HIGHER OIL PRICES, SINCE

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PAGE 01 BONN 20278 02 OF 02 011634Z

43

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ACDA-10 EURE-00 /132 W

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P R 011624Z DEC 76

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20278

THE CAPABILITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL STATES TO HELP POOR COUNTRIES DEPENDS ON HOW BADLY THE FORMER ARE BLED BY THE OIL PRODUCERS. WHILE THERE EXIST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND GISCARD ON THIS POINT, "SUED-DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" DOES NOT BELIEVE THESE DIFFERENCES ARE INSURMOUNTABLE.

4. NOTING THAT THE SUMMIT TOOK PLACE UNDER THE SHADOW OF AN EXPECTED INCREASE OF OIL PRICES, THE BONN
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PAGE 02 BONN 20278 02 OF 02 011634Z

"GENERAL ANZEIGER" COMMENTED THAT THE PRIMARY ISSUES TAKEN UP WERE THE OIL PROBLEM, THE WEAKNESSES NOW APPEARING IN THE ECONOMIC UPSWING, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE INCREASING DISCREPANCY IN ECONOMIC TRENDS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" WARNED IN PARTICULAR OF THE DANGER THAT THE CRISES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY CAN TRANSMIT NEGATIVE IMPULSES THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

5. THE GERMAN PRESS GAVE MINIMUM COVERAGE TO THE SCHMIDT/CALLAGHAN SIDE CONVERSATION REGARDING THE IMF LOAN TO THE UK. THE "WELT" REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO BRITISH SOURCES THE CHANCELLOR PROMISED TO EXERT GERMAN INFLUENCE THAT THE IMF'S CONDITIONS WILL NOT BE TOO STRINGENT. THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" REPORTS THAT "BONN MUST HELP TO GET AGREEMENT TO FAVORABLE CONDITIONS (FOR THE IMF LOAN) FROM THE US, SWITZERLAND, AND JAPAN," LEAVING IT OPEN WHETHER THIS WAS A BRITISH REQUEST OR THE CONCLUSION OF THE CHANCELLOR OR THAT OF THE NEWSPAPER. THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" RESTRICTS ITSELF TO SIMPLY REPORTING THAT THE GERMAN SIDE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE IMF CREDIT WILL MATERIALIZE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, SPEECHES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN20278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-0289
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761280/aaaacrfr.tel
Line Count: 194
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVEMBER 29-30 EUROPEAN SUMMIT: FRG PRESS COMMENTARY
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, ENRG, GE, XG, EEC, CIEC, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006